

African Fat Tail Gecko Care Sheet



PROFILE

Common Name: Fat tail Gecko

Latin Name: *Hemitheconyx caudicinctus*

Native To: West Africa

Size: 6 – 9"

Life Span: 10 - 20 years

HOUSING REQUIREMENTS

Environment:

Sandy, rocky vivarium with numerous hiding places.

Vivarium Size:

A single gecko will live happily in a 24"x18"x12" vivarium. Two female geckos can live together as long as they are the same size and temperament. For this we recommend a minimum of 32"x18"x12".

Juvenile fat tails will thrive in smaller vivariums such as 12"x10"x8" for babies and 24"x12"x12" for sub adults. Hatchling fat tails will benefit from having a smaller vivarium as they will find food and water quicker and easier.

Substrate:

Fat tail geckos naturally live in dry, savannah areas but spend a lot of time in a dark, humid hiding spot. Substrates that emulate this include sand/soil mixes, specific desert substrates and leo life.

Using leaf litter and dry grasses to emulate the natural environment and some low branches/rocks for climbing will add enrichment to the enclosure.

Food and Water:

Many fat tails drink from still water in bowls. However, some prefer to lick droplets off of leaves and logs. We recommend placing a fresh bowl of water in the cool end of the vivarium every day. Try to keep this bowl away from the main heat source as evaporation will cause the humidity to rise, particularly in wooden vivariums. The ideal humidity level for fat tails is 50 – 70%.

To aid shedding, we recommend placing a 'humid hide' in the vivarium. This provides your fat tail with an area of high humidity, helping to remove old skin.

Whilst young, fat tail geckos will eat a range of small gut-loaded insects including crickets, locusts, small roaches, waxworms and mealworms. When they reach adulthood they may also consume the occasional pinkie mouse. These should be fed sparingly due to their high fat content.

We recommend dusting all live prey 3 – 4 times a week. Calcium and vitamin supplements can be found in our reptile section.

Heat/Light Requirements:

Fat tail geckos require 24 hour heating. Many people use either heat mats or infra red heat bulbs. We recommend the use of heat mats as this aids the digestion of the geckos food. The use of white light may cause your gecko to hide away a lot and they may choose to hide rather than hunt for food.

As a crepuscular species of gecko (active at dawn and dusk) fat tails bask for UV exposure for very short periods of time, sometimes just exposing a tail or leg. Some keepers provide them with low percentage UV to emulate a regular photo period. This can be particularly useful when breeding.

Below are the ideal temperatures for your fat tail gecko, all of which can be thermostatically controlled:

Day: 29-35°C

Night: 22-26°C

Please note that this care sheet is only for your basic husbandry knowledge and that it is always recommended that you do further reading.

FURTHER READING:

www.everythingreptiles.com

Any Problems?

Give us a ring ASAP on 0121 744 1300

Or email us at shirley_reptiles@live.co.uk

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